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Utah's courts are committed to open, fair, and independent justice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JUSTICE COURTS ADD VIDEO CONFERENCING

CourtCom allows judges to hold hearings via the Internet

Salt Lake City, UT—For the past 15 months, Utah's Justice Courts have been going online with a video conferencing system known as CourtCom. The new system allows Justice Court judges to conduct preliminary proceedings and arraignments via a secure Internet connection.

CourtCom assists Justice Courts to better manage case dockets while improving safety and security at courthouses. The new system is expected to create some $500,000 in savings in transportation and security costs, while reducing prisoner jail time by allowing judges to hear cases more quickly.

The only equipment needed for CourtCom is a secure Internet connection, along with a computer, microphone, headset, and webcam. The system operates through the Internet and is encrypted in order to be totally secure. Webcams have been installed in courts and at the jails so the judge and defendants can view each other.

"CourtCom is a win-win system," said Clearfield Justice Court Judge John Sandberg. "CourtCom reduces jail costs, transportation costs, and generally results in early release for defendants, while saving money."

CourtCom has been installed by VIACK Corporation at 134 Justice Courts and 29 correctional facilities throughout the state. The final installation took place at the Salt Lake City Justice Court on August 24, 2006. The total cost of the installation is $220,000, which has been paid for with grant monies from the Utah Security, Technology, and Training fund. This fund receives monies from surcharges on criminal cases.

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